



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

mz

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,681	09/19/2003	Demetri Psaltis	0007975-0042	4072

66498 7590 03/28/2007
THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER, LLP
900 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

EXAMINER

LAMB, CHRISTOPHER RAY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2627

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/664,681

Applicant(s)

PSALTIS ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher R. Lamb

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species I (Fig. 2: inkjet printing) in the reply filed on December 21st, 2006 is acknowledged. However, due to the necessity of addressing all the disclosed embodiments in the 35 USC 112 rejection which follows, the Examiner has withdrawn the restriction requirement.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged. Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 as follows:

The later-filed application must be an application for a patent for an invention which is also disclosed in the prior application (the parent or original nonprovisional application or provisional application). The disclosure of the invention in the parent application and in the later-filed application must be sufficient to comply with the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. See *Transco Products, Inc. v. Performance Contracting, Inc.*, 38 F.3d 551, 32 USPQ2d 1077 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

The disclosure of the prior-filed application, Application No. 60/412,523, fails to provide adequate support or enablement in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 for one or more claims of this application. "Holey fibers" are not

disclosed at all in the prior-filed application. Accordingly, claim 9 is not entitled to the benefit of the prior filed application.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "holey fibers" (as in claim 9) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for

consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 1:

In line 5, "measuring said fluoresce" should be "measuring the fluorescence."

"Fluoresce" is a verb; "fluorescence" is its product; therefore it is the fluorescence that is measured when a carrier fluoresces.

Regarding claims 2-10:

They are dependent on claim 1 and therefore contain the same objectionable language.

Additionally, with regards to claim 10, "an HSMF" should be "a HSMF." The Examiner would also prefer that this acronym be written out. The acronym HSMF has been defined in the specification, but the claim would be more immediately understandable on its face if the full term were written there. In that case, this would become "a holographic multi-spectral filter (HMSF)."

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Regarding claim 1:

The subject matter that is not enabled is "placing a plurality of different carriers of different colors on a medium and representing data by the presence and absence of said colors." One of ordinary skill in the art would be unable to perform this method step without undue experimentation.

The specification discloses that the claimed "different carriers of different colors" are quantum dots, which are "nano-scale crystalline structures" (specification: page 10, line 14). These quantum dots are "approximately 10 nm" in size (specification: page 11, line 7).

The specification proposes three methods of placing these different carriers of different colors: first, using inkjet based technology; second, using holey fibers; and third, using laser induced technology. These three methods correspond to dependent

Art Unit: 2627

claims 7, 9, and 8, respectively. The specification is not enabling for any of these three proposed methods.

To decide whether the disclosure does not satisfy the enablement requirement, and whether any necessary experimentation is undue, the Examiner has weighed in particular the following factors:

(A) The nature of the invention.

The basic concept has already been discussed, but of particular note is that the specification discloses that "the present invention can increase the storage capability [of a disk drive] by several orders of magnitude. The present invention provides this advantage by multiplying the amount of data that can be stored at each pit" (specification: page 8, lines 7-9). The disclosure later suggests "a storage density of say 1 terabit/square inch," (specification: page 12, lines 7-8), which is enormously larger than current storage capacities.

(B) The state of the prior art.

The Examiner has found no evidence that placing quantum dots at this level of storage density is so well understood or well known that one of ordinary skill would be able to make the invention without more detailed direction from the inventor. The Applicant cites in the specification several papers, apparently to demonstrate the level of knowledge in the art, but these papers do not teach or suggest any part of the claimed element in question. They are not directed to optical recording at all.

(C) The amount of direction provided by the inventor.

The inventor provides no direction whatsoever. To discuss each of the three methods in turn:

(i) Inkjet based technology.

The Applicant's disclosure of the inkjet based technology consists entirely of a theoretical calculation of the achievable storage density (specification: pages 12-13). The disclosure implies that a standard inkjet nozzle would be sufficient to place these quantum dots (each with an approximate size of 10nm) with such specificity as to achieve a storage density near to or exceeding 1 Tb/in², requiring printing on the scale of a commercial disk spot size of 0.32 μ m. Considering that this resolution is several orders of magnitude higher than typical inkjet printing, it would appear that more direction would be required to enable this method.

(ii) Holey fibers

The Applicant describes holey fibers (specification: page 13), but does not discuss at all how they could be used to place quantum dots on the medium. Applicant does not have a single drawing depicting holey fibers or their use.

(iii) Laser induced technology

The Applicant references an article by Wenzel et al. that discloses the shaping of nanoparticles. Applicant essentially summarizes the article in the disclosure (specification: page 14), and then goes on to suggest, in one paragraph, how it could be applied to optical recording (specification: pages 14-15). However, the article does not itself discuss optical recording, and Applicant provides no details as to how to adapt or use the technology in this context.

Art Unit: 2627

(D) The existence of working examples.

There are none.

Regarding claims 2-10:

They are dependent on claim 1. Additionally, claims 7, 8, and 9 are specifically directed to the placing of said carriers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glushko et al. (US 6,291,132).

Regarding claim 1:

Glushko discloses:

A method of storing data comprising:

placing a plurality of carriers of different colors on a medium and representing data by the presence and absence of said colors (column 17, lines 40-55: since the fluorescent materials have "different fluorescence spectra," they are different colors);

exciting said colors within said carriers by making them fluoresce (column 17, lines 55-67);

measuring said fluorescence of said carriers to identify presence and absence of said colors (column 17, line 55 to column 18, line 20).

Regarding claim 2:

In Glushko said medium is a disk (column 17, lines 40-55).

10. Claim 1-4, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bawendi et al. (US 6,774,361 B2).

Regarding claim 1:

Bawendi discloses:

A method of storing data comprising:

placing a plurality of carriers of different colors on a medium and representing data by the presence and absence of said colors (column 12, lines 24-65; that the quantum dots are different colors is disclosed in, for example, column 10, lines 25-40);

exciting said colors within said carriers by making them fluoresce (column 10, line 40 to column 11, line 10: "an excitation source");

measuring said fluorescence of said carriers to identify presence and absence of said colors (column 10, line 40 to column 11, line 10: "the luminescence from the dots" is the fluorescence).

Regarding claim 2:

In Bawendi the medium is a disk (this is among the possibilities disclosed in column 14, lines 15-50).

Regarding claim 3:

In Bawendi the carriers and nanometer size fluorescent particles (abstract: Bawendi uses the same quantum dots as Applicant).

Regarding claim 4:

In Bawendi the particles comprise quantum dots (abstract).

Regarding claim 6:

In Bawendi said quantum dots are made up of a plurality of shades of a color (there are two ways Bawendi meets this claim. First, in column 6, lines 45-50: Bawendi discloses that there may be as many as 20 “discrete emissions.” Since each discrete emission is a different color, if there are 20 of them there must be a plurality of shades of at least one standard color, since there are only eight of those: i.e., red, yellow, orange, green, blue, indigo, or violet. Alternatively, Bawendi discloses in column 7, lines 15-30, that a given wavelength may have 2-15 different intensities: thus that wavelength will be darker or lighter, or, “shaded”).

Regarding claim 9:

In Bawendi the placing of said carriers is performed using holey fibers (column 14, lines 15-50: Bawendi discloses that the quantum dots can be attached to a solid support during a synthesis sequence, such as a “hollow fiber”).

11. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McGrew (US 6,692,031).

Regarding claim 1:

McGrew discloses:

A method of storing data comprising:

placing a plurality of carriers of different colors on a medium and representing data by the presence and absence of said colors (column 5, lines 5-25: "20 or more distinct sizes" corresponds to 20 more more colors);

exciting said colors within said carriers by making them fluoresce (a reader reads the fluorescence signature: column 4, lines 20-35);

measuring said fluorescence of said carriers to identify presence and absence of said colors (again, column 4, lines 20-35).

Regarding claim 3:

In McGrew said carriers are nanometer size fluorescent particles (quantum dots; column 5, lines 5-25).

Regarding claim 4:

In McGrew said particles comprise quantum dots (column 5, lines 5-25).

Regarding claim 6:

In McGrew said quantum dots are made up of a plurality of shades of a color (In column 5, lines 5-35, McGrew discloses there may be 20 or more distinct sizes. Since each distinct size corresponds to a different color, if there are 20 of them there must be a plurality of shades of at least one standard color, since there are only eight of those: i.e., red, yellow, orange, green, blue, indigo, or violet.)

Regarding claim 7:

McGrew discloses wherein said placing of said carriers is performed using inkjet based technology (column 6, lines 10-20).

Regarding claim 8:

McGrew discloses wherein said placing of said carriers is performed using laser-induced technology (column 5, lines 5-35: a laser is used to fix the dots).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bawendi.

Regarding this claim:

Bawendi discloses a method of storing data as discussed above.

Bawendi does not disclose "wherein said quantum dots are made up of a red, blue, and green color."

However, Bawendi does disclose that the quantum dots should be made up of three colors (column 9, lines 25-60: the "three different particle size distributions" correspond to three different colors).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include wherein said quantum dots are made up of a red, blue, and green color, because the Examiner takes Official Notice that the standard color space used in computing, displays, and printing is the red/green/blue color space.

The motivation would have been: to pick the colors that make up the standard, for ease in computer processing, displaying, and printing the results.

Art Unit: 2627

14. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGrew.

Regarding claim 5:

McGrew discloses a method of storing data as discussed above.

McGrew does not disclose "wherein said quantum dots are made up of a red, blue, and green color."

However, McGrew does disclose wherein there are 20 or more distinct sizes of particles (column 5, lines 5-35). Since each size is a different color, there are thus 20 or more distinct colors of quantum dots.

Therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include wherein some of the quantum dots are red, blue, and green, because with 20 or more colors, it would be obvious to have red, blue, and green among them, as these are standard colors. Furthermore, the Applicant does not disclose that the use of red, blue, or green solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose (they are selected only "for purposes of example" on page 8 of the specification), and it appears the invention would perform equally well with any colors.

15. Claim 7 and 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bawendi in view of McGrew.

Regarding claim 7:

Bawendi discloses a method of storing data as discussed above in the rejection of claim 1.

Bawendi does not disclose wherein "said method of placing said carriers is performed using inkjet based technology."

McGrew discloses that fluorescent ink containing quantum dots can be applied to a carrier by ink jet printing (column 6, lines 10-20). McGrew discloses that this is the preferred method to apply the quantum dots, "because it permits printing variable information in the form of distinct types of quantum dots in different printed dots."

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to include in Bawendi wherein said method of placing said carriers is performed using inkjet based technology. The motivation would have been as disclosed by McGrew.

Regarding claim 9:

Bawendi discloses a method of storing data as discussed above in the rejection of claim 1.

Bawendi does not disclose wherein "said method of placing said carriers is performed using laser-induced technology."

McGrew discloses a method of placing said carriers (that is, quantum dots) using laser-induced technology (column 5, lines 5-35: it is "laser-induced" because the laser is used to fix the dots in place).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in Bawendi wherein said method of placing said carriers is performed using laser-induced technology.

The motivation would have been to achieve the storage density disclosed by McGrew (column 5, lines 5-35), which is considerable.

16. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bawendi in view of Metz (US 5,166,813).

Regarding claim 10:

Bawendi discloses a method for storing data as discussed above in the rejection of claim 10.

Bawendi does not disclose "wherein a HSMF is used for dispersing collimated fluorescent light on a spectrally sensitive component." However, note that Bawendi does disperse collimated fluorescent light on a spectrally sensitive component (column 11, lines 10-20: it "spectrally resolve[s] the colors" to a detector).

Note that Applicant defines a HSMF as a "holographic multi-spectral filter" in the specification (page 17).

Metz discloses that when detecting fluorescence, a holographic multi-spectral filter is used for dispersing collimated fluorescent light on a spectrally sensitive component (the abstract discloses the use of a holographic filter; Fig. 1 depicts the light impacting the spectrally sensitive component; column 12, lines 40-50 discloses that the hologram can be multi-spectral: that is, it transmits more than one wavelength). Metz discloses that a holographic filter is more efficient (column 13, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to include in Bawendi a holographic multi-spectral filter as taught by Metz. The motivation would have been to be more efficient.

17. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGr w in view of Metz (US 5,166,813).

Regarding claim 10:

McGrew discloses a method for storing data as discussed above in the rejection of claim 10.

McGrew does not disclose "wherein a HSMF is used for dispersing collimated fluorescent light on a spectrally sensitive component."

Note that Applicant defines a HSMF as a "holographic multi-spectral filter" in the specification (page 17).

Metz discloses that when detecting fluorescence, a holographic multi-spectral filter is used for dispersing collimated fluorescent light on a spectrally sensitive component (the abstract discloses the use of a holographic filter; Fig. 1 depicts the light impacting the spectrally sensitive component; column 12, lines 40-50 discloses that the hologram can be multi-spectral: that is, it transmits more than one wavelength). Metz discloses that a holographic filter is more efficient (column 13, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to include in McGrew a holographic multi-spectral filter as taught by Metz. The motivation would have been to be more efficient.

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wenzel et al. and Han et al., the two papers referenced in the specification, have been made of record due to their relevance to the 35 USC 112 rejection above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Lamb whose telephone number is (572)

Art Unit: 2627

272-5264. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CRL 3/20/07


WILLIAM KORZUCH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600